

They Bury the Children--Ignorance and Poverty



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THE arrival of Dr. Friedmann, another man who hopes that he can cure consumption, gives courage—let us hope not falsely—to many that have been in despair.

What the world needs as much as a cure is to understand disease and its causes. **KNOW CAUSES AND YOU MAY FIND REMEDIES.**

Disease comes from dirt, is born in dirt and lives in dirt. Cleanliness is fatal to harmful germs and disease is the work of germs.

Filth, which breeds disease, is the result of **IGNORANCE and POVERTY.**

If you could suddenly do away with those twin sisters of evil, diseases like consumption would be as rare as wolves or poisonous reptiles in a well-settled country.

Consumption is especially the child of poverty and ignorance.

Poverty means **BODIES BADLY FED**, and consumption grows in the ill-fed body.

Poverty means lack of fresh air and sunlight. Fresh air, sunlight and good food are **THE** cures for consumption.

There is no use in talking of "wiping out consumption" unless you talk also of wiping out poverty and ignorance. These are your **BIG** enemies; the invisible disease germs are camp followers that trail along with the great social evils.

It is true that science, properly backed, fights disease with ever-increasing power. The germs of disease are fought with special poisons that attack and destroy the harmful bacillus without harming the individual. And disease bacilli are fought and destroyed by their own brothers and sisters, developed outside of the human body in a shape less virulent and destructive than the germs in the human body.

In the long run, however, it must be remembered by individuals, by doctors and by government that poverty itself **IS** DISEASE, and ignorance is a disease of the mind that produces disease of the body. Disease will give way to good health only as rapidly as ignorance and poverty give way before education and increasing prosperity.

No science will wipe the plague out of Asiatic countries until at least part of the filth and poverty that go with ignorance and superstition shall have been wiped out.

The miserable fanatics with false religions that have so long kept humanity back actually permit the disease-breeding flies to cover the eyes of their babies—because they think it a sin to kill a fly. And in Egypt, for instance,

They Are Twin Sisters, and Work Together. They Walk at the Head of Children's Funerals, Nine Times Out of Ten. Each Helps the Work of the Other. Poverty Breeds Ignorance, and Ignorance Breeds Poverty. Disease, Superstition, Bigotry Cause Them, and Are Caused BY Them. Kill These Twin Sisters, the Great "Undertakers" That Bury the Children. Civilization Will Come After They Are Gone.

tens of thousands of children are horribly afflicted with disease of the eyes—and thousands are totally blind—because ignorance and its twin sister, superstition, prevent the mother from destroying flies—even when they cluster on a baby's eyes.

Here in America another kind of ignorance plays as harmful a part, almost. We do not think it a sin to kill flies, but ignorance is indifferent to the disease-bearing pests; flies bring disease to the faces and to the food of children; dogs and cats, bearing disease in their fur, are allowed to be the playmates of young children—and ignorant parents wonder that the children are sick.

Consumption, that Dr. Friedmann hopes to "cure," will not be cured until the lowest forms of poverty shall have been cured.

Remember that **EVERY HUMAN BODY CONTAINS THE BACILLUS OF TUBERCULOSIS**—that is to say, the germ of consumption—a few hours after the child is born.

Every filthy, dark tenement is a breeding ground for the germs. Cows and other animals ill cared for, ill fed, shut out from fresh air and sunlight breed the tubercle bacilli.

No human being in our civilization can possibly avoid taking in the bacilli of consumption.

Your baby is born to-day absolutely "sterile" throughout its digestive tract. And before it is a day old millions of germs swarm within it. In a few days its collection of germs includes the germ of consumption, **ALWAYS**, and the germs of other diseases nearly always.

It would be vain to protect the child from these germs. For the human body **MUST GET USED TO THEM**, and its protecting white blood corpuscles must learn to fight them.

If you kept your child free from consumption germs until it reached the age of twenty it would inevitably die at once when the first germs entered its system. The South Sea Islanders and our own Indians of North America died like sick sheep the moment "civilization" brought the consumption germ among them.

It was not whiskey—as we often say—but

consumption and smallpox that killed off the Indians. Their blood had not been taught by vaccination or gradually acquired semi-immunity to fight those diseases, and they were helpless the moment the germs entered their bodies.

The important thing is that the inevitable infection of the young child with the tuberculosis germ shall not be so violent and sudden as to make the system submit before learning to fight; and also that the infection shall not find the child's or the adult's blood in a weakened condition through poor food, or otherwise.

Give the same dose of consumption germs at the same time to two children, one well fed and strong, the other ill fed and sickly.

The well-fed child will throw off the disease, keep down the growth of bacilli below the danger point. The other child will die.

Children surrounded at home with consumption germs in poor tenements will surely get the disease and eventually die of it.

They are taken—a few of them only, unfortunately—to a preventorium, and there they get fresh air, sunlight and **GOOD FOOD**. They gain in weight, grow strong, conquer the germs and **LIVE**. That tells you how closely poverty and disease are allied.

Ignorance develops disease and death. Ignorance does not know how to avoid infection or the spreading of disease. Ignorance—always self-sufficient—scoffs at scientific truths. Ignorance in its worst form of brutal superstition refuses even to fight against disease, saying "It is God's will" that hundreds of thousands of children should die painful deaths—as though any being but a vile and malevolent devil could desire painful death for innocent children and horrible mental suffering for their mothers.

Ignorance, poverty and superstition have been too long teaching "submission" to the supposed will of some "divine power," constantly creating children only to murder them.

Education stops **THAT** nonsense, and prosperity feeds the child, while knowledge protects it.

Let us hope that Dr. Friedmann's plan for injecting into the body mild, attenuated or non-

poisonous forms of tubercular germs may prove a success. Wonders have been done in that way.

The diphtheritic serum, taken from the horse, now enables doctors to laugh at diphtheria and save millions of children.

Friedmann's cure—so it is guessed—is a tubercular germ developed in the body of the turtle, a cold-blooded animal. This cold-blooded consumption is less virulent and destructive than the usual kind that we get in our bodies.

The phagocytes (white blood corpuscles that attack disease germs) are able to handle the bacilli that come, rather feeble, from the cold blood of Mr. Turtle. And by practising on these weak turtle germs the little inside defenders of our blood learn how to attack and wipe out the more dangerous bacillus when he appears.

It is an interesting theory; it has worked marvelously in other lines of scientific work. Everybody will hope that Dr. Friedmann can do all that he thinks he can do.

But it is not wise to hope too much.

And remember this: **Whatever the cure, THE BLOOD WITHIN YOU MUST DO THE REAL WORK OF DESTROYING GERMS.**

And to work well the blood must be strong and **WELL FED**.

Therefore, the fight against disease, as against all of our worst evils, is the old fight against **POVERTY WHICH BREEDS IGNORANCE and IGNORANCE which breeds POVERTY.**

Give the people knowledge and food, sunlight and fresh air—and in the end you will have a race, and even an entire globe, whence the germs of disease shall have been driven—as we have driven out ferocious animals and poisonous snakes.

In that day we may be healthy without being forced to take into our bodies modified vaccination doses of smallpox, or gentle, weak-backed consumption germs from the turtle.

Until disease **DOES DISAPPEAR**, however, be grateful to the scientists who fight so wonderfully—and don't waste your time on the weak-minded, sentimental brothers and sisters that denounce vaccination or imagine they have discovered some system of curing disease without actually doing anything about it.

The Buddhist gentleman imagines that he can improve his health by standing on one foot, closing one nostril and pronouncing the mystic word "Om."

He is mistaken. He really needs to sit down with both feet in a bathtub, splash himself with soap and water, and take deep breaths through **BOTH** nostrils.